

# Mountain Times

The Friends of Rib Mountain State Park  
4200 Park Road, Wausau, Wisconsin 54401

Vol. 5 Issue 2

Summer 2006

## From the President

**T**he Concerts in the Clouds committee was lucky to get several new members involved in the planning this year. **Tim Thompson, Andy Hecht, Heather Janes, and Nancy Stencil** have joined **Sheryl Hemp, Greg Huber, Sandi Cihlar, Kevin Keefe,** and me and have brought some new ideas to the concert series. This year we will be holding three concerts, with a little something extra at each concert. Please check out our line-up of entertainers for this season and plan on coming up for a show. The music, the view, and the atmosphere just don't get any better.

It seems that over the last few years a repetitious theme in my report has been, "postponements." In keeping with that theme, the construction of the new contact station at the park has been put off for another year. With that delay, our nature center addition to the project is also on hold. With phase three of the park master plan calling for a nature and education center to be located near the south observation deck, the Friends Board will be taking another look at our proposed addition to the contact station.

Also postponed, Marathon County's new dispatch and emergency broadcast tower should have been done by now. It looks like construction will happen in August.

Speaking of snow, I do need to thank **Nancy Stencil** for coordinating our snow shoe hike again this year and **Joel Bratz** for supplying snow shoes. Once again, unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate with us. Our original date was actually rained out and the event had to be "postponed."



Happy Hiking,

Steve Engler, President  
president@ribmountain.org  
715-298-7933

## Teacher's Study Guide Available

The second edition of the Rib Mountain Teacher's Study guide is now available at the park for area teachers, youth group leaders, parents, or anyone who would like to learn more about the natural world found on Rib Mountain.

The cost is \$5 for teachers and for \$10 to the public.

## News at the Park

### Observation Tower Work

You may have noticed that the observation tower at the park has been closed all winter and spring. A major crack in one of the main beams on the tower was discovered late last year, forcing the tower to be closed. Special replacement wood arrived and the repairs were started. However, additional wood rot problems were discovered that also need repair. As a result, the observation tower will have to be closed until it is safe for visitors again.

### The Master Plan

With the completion of the master plan, Rib Mountain will see some major changes over the next few years. The priority projects to be completed in the first few years will be reconstruction of the fresh water system (the existing system has been shut down for several years), construction of a new public contact building, and a new shelter building, repair and upgrade of the park roads, and construction of a walking path parallel to the road.

While few major improvements are scheduled for this year, some trail improvement and development will occur as staff time and money permits. Planning and engineering work will happen this year for more visible changes next year.

### Status of the Campground

As you may know, the master plan calls for the conversion of the campground into a picnic area. As a result, campsites at the park will be taken off the Reserve America program for 2007. However, it is doubtful that the conversion will happen until at least 2008. Camping will be available on a first-come first-served basis until the project is started.

### New Firewood Rules in State Parks

In an effort to stop the spread of an insect called the **Emerald Ash Borer**, all Wisconsin state parks and many county park systems have asked campers not to bring firewood with them when they camp.

EAB is an exotic insect native to Asia that attacks ash trees. In its larval stage, EAB feeds undetected under the bark of ash trees, disrupting water and nutrient flow, and ultimately killing the trees in just a few years. First discovered in 2002, the borer is responsible for the death or damage of approximately 15 million ash trees in Michigan.

When unburned firewood is left behind in the campground, the larvae can move out of the firewood and into the forests. By keeping firewood in the parks local, the DNR hopes to contain the spread of this pest.

## Membership Renewal

**IF YOU DID NOT SEND IN YOUR RENEWAL, THERE IS STILL TIME!**

If we have not received your dues, you will find another membership application in your newsletter. Please consider renewing to continue your support of Rib Mountain State Park.

For those who paid your dues, you will find enclosed your official "Friends" window cling and membership card. The card is good for a 10% discount on all purchases at the concession stand.

## Concerts in the Clouds—2006

All shows begin at 6 PM in the amphitheater. The only charge is a park admission.

**Saturday, June 24**

***Jack Norton and the Mullet River Boys***

June is **Dairy Month**. Look for free ice cream courtesy of **Schwan's Home Delivery Foods**.

**Saturday, July 15**

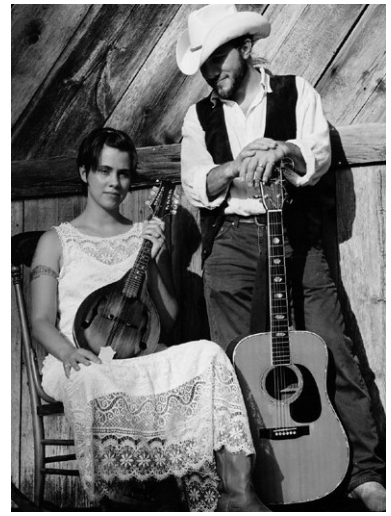
***Buffali***

Join us for free ice cream sandwiches while enjoying the music courtesy of **Schwan's Home Delivery Foods**.

**Saturday, July 22**

***The Mike & Amy Finders Band***

Free popcorn will be provided by **The Minocqua Gourmet Popcorn Company**.



**The Friends of Rib Mountain wish to thank our sponsors for making these concerts possible.**

**Aspirus Health ● People's State Bank  
Wausau Insurance Company/Liberty Mutual  
Rib Mountain Cycle ● Midwest Coca-Cola**

**Lodging for the performers is provided by  
The Wausau Inn and Convention Center and  
the new Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott in Weston**

## Board Meeting – July 17

### Member Input Sought on Projects

The next scheduled Board meeting for the Friends will be on Monday, July 17, at 6:45 PM in the park shelter. The focus of this meeting will be to discuss the direction of our nature center project and other needs for the park. Discussion will focus several options including:

- Continuing to plan for an addition to the DNR contact station with and emphasis on culture, history, and geology.
- Discontinue the contact station addition plan and seek funding to accelerate the planned construction of a separate nature and education center.
- Use the money we currently have for the nature center project and provide funds for a new full-featured enclosed shelter.

Please plan to attend if you have any ideas, interest, or can assist in the planning process.

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### Board of Directors

Steve Engler .....	President	
Gene Musolf .....	Vice President	
Scott Wegner .....	Treasurer	
Sheryl Hemp .....	Secretary	
Directors:		
Sandi Cihlar	Wes Ebert	Ray Heiser
Greg Huber	Wib Johnson	Kevin Keeffe
Bea Musolf	Nancy Stencil	Joe Wachtel

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